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Message Text

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14
ACTION AGR-08

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PASS AGRICULTURE

FROM AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR, UR
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND GRAIN PROSPECTS

1. DURING PAST WEEK, AGATTACHE HAS DISCUSSED AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND CURRENT ISSUES WITH COLLEAGUES IN MINAG., ALL-UNION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND USA INSTITUTE.

2. CONSENSUS APPEARED IN FOUR AREAS OF POLICY: (1) CONTINUED STRONG CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOR AGRICULTURE;(2) HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE NON-CHERNOZEM ZONE; (3) MORE CONCERTED EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COLLECTIVE AND STATE FARMS; (4) THE STRENGTHENING OF INTER-FARM COOPERATION AND SPECIALIZATION AND BETTER FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM RESEARCH INSTITUTES TO FARMS.

4. INSTITUTE OFFICIALS WERE CAUTIOUS ABOUT POSSIBLE ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONALITY CHANGES IN MINAG. DISCUSSIONS APPARENTLY HAVE, OR ARE STILL TAKING PLACE ON SUBJECT OF BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES OF MINAG, PARTICULARLY IN MANAGEMENT OF SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES FOR AGRICULTURE, SUGGESTING A GREATER ROLE IN DECISION MAKING RATHER THAN LESS.

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5. POSSIBLE PRICE SHIFTS IN LIVESTOCK SECTOR MAY ALSO BE INTRODUCED IN NEAR FUTURE. CURRENT READING FROM INSTITUTES IS THAT HOGS SHOULD BE SLAUGHTERED AT LIGHTER WEIGHTS--90-95 KG. TO SAVE FEED. PREMIUM PRICES, THUS, WILL BE PAID FOR

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HOGS SLAUGHTERED AT THIS WEIGHT AND A DECLINING SCALE OF
PRICES WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR HOGS SLAUGHTERED AT HEAVIER WEIGHTS.

6. CURRENT HARVEST PROSPECTS FOR WINTER GRAINS WERE CONSIDERED
DIM BY ALL SOURCES. DRY FALL AND COLD WINTER WOULD RAISE
WINTERKILL ABOVE NORM -- 15-17 PERCENT OF
SOWN AREA. INSTITUTE SOURCE INDICATED 70 PERCENT LOSS IN
ODESSA OBLAST, REPEAT 70 PERCENT. ATTACHE ESTIMATES 7-10
MILLION HECTARES MAY BE RE-SEEDED IN SPRING.

7. RADIO BROADCAST FEBRUARY 18 INDICATED MINAG EXPECTED TO
TAKE ON SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AT ALL LEVELS TO
INSURE TIMELY AVAILABILITY OF REQUIRED FARM MACHINERY.
WE WOULD READ THIS TO SUGGEST GREATER ROLE OF SEL'KHOZTEKHNIKA
IN FARM PICTURE.
STOESSEL

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